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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

EXCISE (15)

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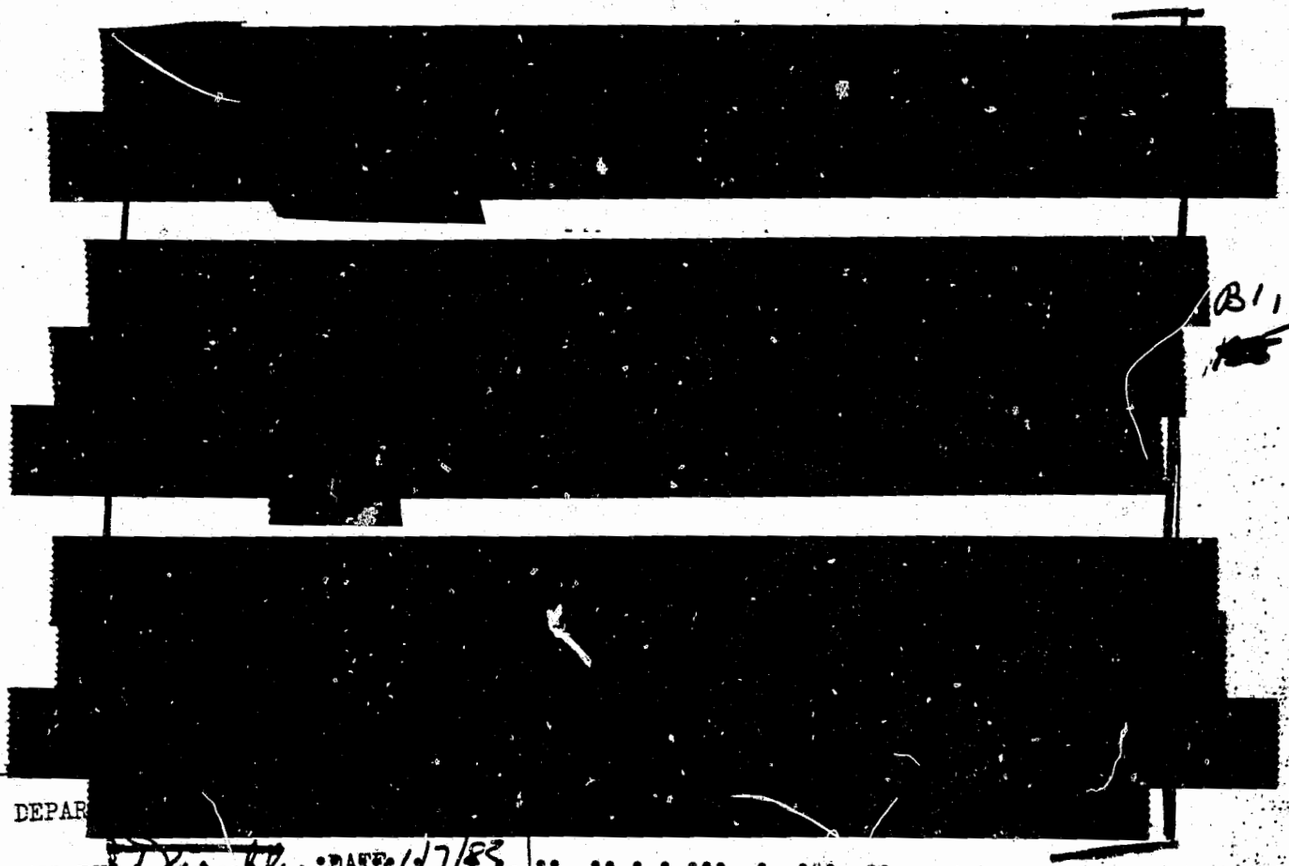
## Jordanian Request for 100 M60A3 Tanks

### 1. The Issue

The issue -- which will certainly arise during the first thirty days of the Reagan Administration -- will be whether to sell Jordan up to one hundred M60A3 tanks in the face of some probable Congressional opposition and strong Israeli objections. These tanks would complete the reequipping and modernization of Jordan's eighteen armored battalions, a force which the U.S. advised Jordan nearly ten years ago would be appropriate to its defensive needs. Factors to take into account in such a decision include the following:



B1, A5

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REVIEWED BY: [illegible] DATE: 6/7/85

RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE ____

TS AUTH. ____ REASON(S) ____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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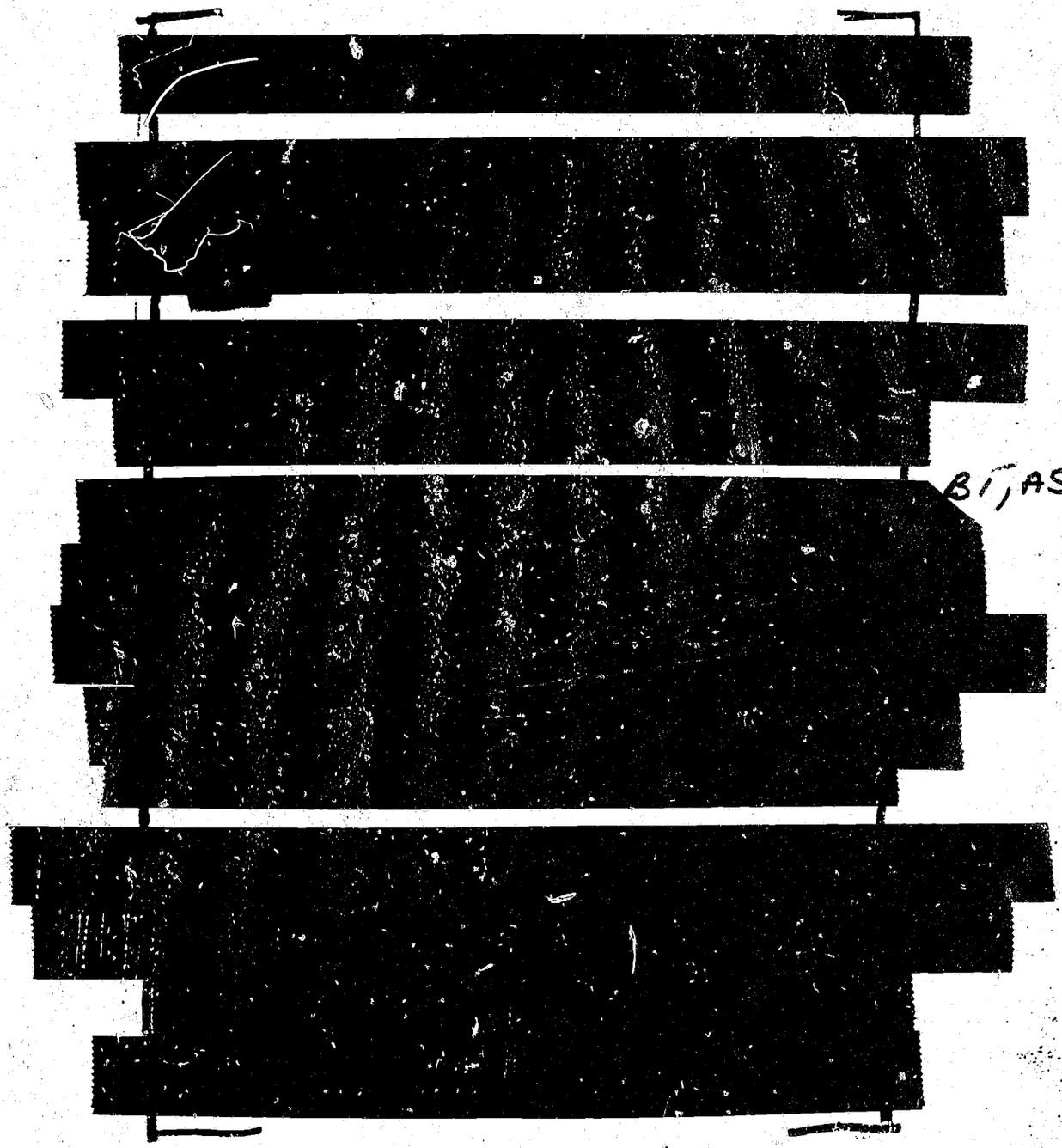

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2. Time Constraints

The Jordanians can be expected to raise the issue at the semi-annual U.S.-Jordanian Joint Military Commission Meeting December 1-3. They would understand if the Administration was not able to provide a conclusive answer at that time. However, they will expect a position from the new Administration as early as possible.

The main time constraint is the impending phase-out of the M60 production line. While M60s will be produced into 1982 or 1983, long lead time components for these last production runs are being purchased now and subcontractors will begin to close down their lines fairly soon. Depending on other tank sales now being considered, the end date for placing new orders may shift from February into the spring of 1981, but this is in no way assured.

Congressional notification probably would have to begin by sometime in February 1981. Otherwise, we would risk having to refuse the sale by default or the delays would make the tanks much more expensive.

3. What we are doing and why

The Administration is currently considering whether to approve at this time the sale of the second 100 tanks, or a lesser number should Jordan acquire tanks from Iraqi war booty, so that the informal 20-day Congressional notification could begin during the current Congress. The statutory formal notification process, however, would not be completed before the present Administration leaves office. Therefore, consultations with members of the new Administration might be necessary.

Congressional attitudes are mixed but increasingly negative, because of Jordan's support for Iraq in its war with Iran. The prevailing view in the present Congress has been to wait until the new Congress convenes in January before submitting any request for new tanks.

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